

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2014

Mr. PETERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday July 29, 2014 I inadvertently voted "yes" on final passage of H.R. 4315 (rollcall 463). I wish the RECORD to reflect my intention to vote "no" on H.R. 4315.

CELEBRATING THE CITY OF FORT BRAGG'S 125TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2014

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize the City of Fort Bragg on the occasion of its 125th Anniversary Celebration on August 5, 2014.

For a century and a quarter, the remarkable citizens of Fort Bragg have helped the city evolve from a small lumber and fishing town to a city renowned for its beauty and small town feel. With just over 7,000 residents, Fort Bragg is a destination for sport fishermen, abalone divers, and visitors wishing to enjoy one of the most beautiful stretches of coastline in California.

In 1889, the City of Fort Bragg was incorporated on the site of a former military fort and Pomo Indian reservation with C. R. Johnson, president of the Fort Bragg Redwood Company, as its first mayor. His company established the plans for the city, which maintains many of its original historic features today.

The City of Fort Bragg is a Mendocino County treasure, a gateway to the Redwoods, and due to the enduring dedication of its residents, the city will surely continue to be a wonderful place to live and visit for years to come. Please join me in expressing hearty congratulations to the City of Fort Bragg on the occasion of its 125th anniversary.

HONORING MR. HARRY WURTH

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2014

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Mr. Harry Wurth, an esteemed citizen of my congressional district who committed his life to his country and to his fellow veterans. Mr. Wurth, a longtime resident of Albertson, NY, passed away on June 14, 2014 at the age of 87. A veteran of World War II and a leader of the United States Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of New York, Mr. Wurth's life was an example of what it means to serve one's nation.

After graduating high school in 1945, Mr. Wurth enlisted in the Navy and was deployed to the Pacific Theatre toward the end of the war. Aboard the aircraft carrier, the USS *Belau*, he served as deck crew and later as a baker. He was honorably discharged at the end of the war.

Mr. Wurth committed the remainder of his life to serving New York veterans. In 1964 he joined the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3211 in Hicksville, New York, and rose to Post Commander in 1969 and All State Commander. A frequent visitor to VA hospitals in Northport and St. Albans, New York, in 1972 he was elected Chaplin to the Nassau County VFW Council.

Mr. Wurth continued his dedication to the VFW in various positions on the Nassau County and State level. He was elected Chaplin and Commander of VFW District 1 in 1978, and in 1981 he transferred to the Albertson VFW Post 5253. Rising to New York State VFW Chief of Staff in 1993, Mr. Wurth led the effort to establish 19 new Veterans' Posts in New York.

From 1994 to 1996 he continued to move up the ranks in the State Council, rising to VFW State Commander. At the time of his passing Mr. Wurth was the Quartermaster for the Albertson VFW post and Quartermaster of the Nassau County VFW Council.

Mr. Wurth passed away while attending this year's NY State VFW Convention. Until his death, Mr. Wurth never ceased serving our country and veterans alike. I am honored to have had the pleasure to serve as Mr. Wurth's representative. His life will forever be remembered as one of service and commitment to his fellow countrymen.

RECOGNIZING GEORGE FLASINSKI FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday July 30, 2014

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. George Flasinski, the Commander of the Sons of the American Legion, Detachment of Pennsylvania. In his time as Commander, George Flasinski has been an invaluable leader of the Detachment and has shown a strong commitment to the Four Pillars of the American Legion.

The Sons of The American Legion is the nation's largest wartime veterans service organization. The Legion is committed to supporting our veterans and service members, honoring our country, and mentoring youth in our community.

Under Mr. Flasinski's leadership, the membership of the Pennsylvania Sons of the American Legion has risen to nearly 60,000 members. George has organized two Honor Flights to Washington, DC for World War II veterans. Mr. Flasinski has also raised funds for Penn-

sylvania's homeless veterans and the American Legion's Child Welfare Foundation.

Mr. Speaker, I thank George Flasinski and the Sons of the American Legion for their dedication to honoring our nation's heroes and inspiring our nation's youth to emulate them. George Flasinski has shown exceptional guidance in his service as Detachment of Pennsylvania Commander, and I applaud his successes and wish him the best of luck in his retirement.

HONORING LEROY R. COLES UPON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2014

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to acknowledge and honor the unparalleled work of Leroy R. Coles—former Buffalo Urban League CEO. Mr. Coles' work, knowledge, and expertise have left a mountainous, positively-influential footprint not only on the Western New York Area, but nationwide.

Mr. Coles received much of his early social and cultural development as a participant in the Buffalo Urban League programs—which strive to enhance education and youth empowerment, economics, health and quality of life, civic engagement, as well as civil rights and racial justice.

During the historic and tumultuous times of the 1960s and 1970s, Mr. Coles bravely and actively participated in the March on Washington and continued to march for the rights of others through the 1990s. Furthermore, Mr. Coles was especially active in promoting peace and racial harmony during and after the 1960 riots and the desegregation of public schools in Buffalo, New York.

Upon returning to the Western New York area in 1972, Mr. Coles was appointed as president and chief executive officer to the Buffalo Urban League—the same establishment where he began laying his foundation of ethics. Mr. Coles led the Buffalo Urban League through a variety of locations, steadily building programs and services to meet the emerging needs of the minority citizens of Buffalo, New York and Erie County.

Mr. Coles was especially successful in leading the Buffalo Urban League in grant development at the national and state level in order to bring new services to the Western New York community, resulting in additional project initiatives such as the small business loan program for women and minorities who were rejected by banks. Additionally, Mr. Coles advocated for the development of Advanced Vocational Education and Progressive Advanced Vocational Education and Exploration programs for young at-risk students seeking to improve their academic and social skills.

The accomplishments of Leroy R. Coles are extraordinary and uniquely admirable. From being the first African-American trustee of Erie

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Community College, to president of the National Urban League's Association of Executives, or to his induction into the Buffalo Urban League's Quarter Century Club, Mr. Coles' work ethic shines brightly through.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in acknowledging the commendable hard work and positive influence that Leroy R. Coles has brought to Western New York and the nation as a whole. I encourage Americans to use Mr. Coles as an exemplar in how to carry one's self as an individual. Furthermore, I am grateful for the hard work that Mr. Coles has continued to put forward, making Western New York as a whole a better place for all.

CELEBRATING THE RICH HISTORICAL HERITAGE OF MONESSEN, PENNSYLVANIA

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2014

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the rich heritage of Monessen, Pennsylvania, and to remember two important events which took place 150 years ago and ultimately helped shape the town's history.

This year marks the sesquicentennial of the birth of one of the key figures in Monessen's founding, William Henry Donner. Donner was instrumental in the development of the town, using a cash bonus of \$10,000 to turn twenty acres of land on the banks of the Monongahela River into Monessen's first factory, the National Tin Plate Company. In doing so he created the town's initial industry, one that went on to grow and thrive. He was a member of Monessen's first school board and spearheaded efforts to build the Monessen Water Company, as well as Monessen's first school building. His work was crucial to the emergence of Monongahela as a vibrant community, and he played a major part in spurring its growth.

I would also like to take this opportunity to recognize another great figure in the history of Southwestern Pennsylvania who also was a founder of Monessen, James M. Schoonmaker. Schoonmaker was born in Peebles Township in 1842, and was a student at Western University of Pennsylvania when the Civil War broke out. He enlisted in the army and was assigned to the 1st Maryland Calvary, where he quickly established himself as a competent leader. In 1862, Schoonmaker was given the authority by Secretary of War Edwin Stanton to raise the 14th Pennsylvania Cavalry Regiment, of which he was made colonel. His actions in leading soldiers during the Third Battle of Winchester in 1864 were crucial in helping the Union achieve victory, and for his heroic efforts he was awarded the Medal of Honor. This September marks the 150th anniversary of that famous cavalry charge.

On August 16th, The Greater Monessen Historical Society in Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania will celebrate the City of Monessen's annual Founders Day at Monessen City Park, commemorating these two events. I wish to thank the Society and its President Dan Zyglowicz for keeping alive the memory of these important leaders, and preserving our region's history for the next generation.

We must never forget the lessons of the past, and their work is a crucial way to make sure these Pennsylvania leaders continue to be a part of our heritage for decades to come.

HONORING THE TOWN OF ELIZABETH, MISSISSIPPI

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the remarkable Town of Elizabeth, Mississippi.

The town of Elizabeth, Mississippi is located on U.S. Highway 61, approximately 1 mile north of Leland and 2 miles east of Stoneville. In March 1889, a deed was issued to Mr. Joshua Skinner for a railroad depot in the area. At the time, the place was named "Athol", but it was later changed to its current name "Elizabeth".

In 1889, Elizabeth was advertised as "a new town with an unparalleled future, located in the heart of the famous Yazoo Delta . . . the richest and most fertile section of the earth where king cotton reigns supreme." Elizabeth had the unique distinction of being located at the crossroads of the first two main railroads in the Delta: the Louisville, New Orleans, and Texas RR (which later became the Illinois Central RR) and the Georgia Pacific RR (which eventually became the Columbus and Greenville RR).

The town of Elizabeth was designed along the west and south sides of both railroads. Elizabeth emerged early on as a mercantile city, with numerous businesses started up due to the existence of the rail lines. The town can no longer boast a commercial center. Leland has taken that role. However, it does retain its identity as Elizabeth. It boasts a modest population of nearly 200 people and a beautiful roadside park. In 2013, DuPont Pioneer opened a new 30,000 square foot research center near Elizabeth that focuses on soybean breeding and product development as well as corn product testing and characterization for farmers in the Delta.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Town of Elizabeth for its dedication to serving others.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2014

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, July 25, I missed a series of rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on No. 453 and "yea" on No. 451, No. 452, and No. 454.

On Monday, July 28, I missed a series of rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on No. 455, No. 456, and No. 457.

On Tuesday, July 29, I missed a series of rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on No. 458 and No. 459. I would have voted "nay" on No. 460, No. 461,

and No. 462. I would have voted "yea" on No. 463 and No. 464.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2014

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$17,613,035,203,018.10. We've added \$6,986,158,154,105.02 to our debt in 5 years. This is over \$6.9 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

IN COMMEMORATION OF THE 7TH ANNIVERSARY OF PASSAGE OF H. RES. 121

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2014

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 7th anniversary of the passage of H. Res. 121, an historic resolution which expresses the sense of the U.S. House of Representatives that the Government of Japan should formally acknowledge, apologize, and accept historical responsibility in a clear and unequivocal manner for its Imperial Armed Force's coercion of young women into sexual slavery, known to the world as 'comfort women', during its colonial and wartime occupation of Asia and the Pacific Islands from the 1930s through the duration of World War II.

H. Res. 121 was passed on July 30, 2007, and I commend my good friend, Congressman MICHAEL HONDA of California, for introducing it. I admire his courage and devotion for causes that matter. As a Japanese-American, he gave voice to this cause in a way no other could and, because of him, this Resolution stands as a testament of his advocacy for and on behalf of those who suffer.

I also commend Dong Suk Kim of Korean American Civic Empowerment (KACE) for his grassroots efforts in bolstering support for H. Res. 121 which led to its successful passage. His contributions made a significant difference.

I also commend the Honorable NANCY PELOSI. In my opinion, her decision to bring H. Res. 121 to the Floor for House consideration was the key factor that made passage possible. As the first woman in American history to serve as Speaker of the House, her clarion call for equality and empowerment for women is of consequence globally and historically. Her personal commitment to the women who still bear the scars from the Imperial Armed Force's coercion will never be forgotten.

In 2007, it was my honor to hold the first hearing ever held on this sensitive issue. Although this legislation had been introduced in the U.S. Congress for more than a decade, including by my good friend, former Congressman Lane Evans, no Committee had ever held